

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 63. (canceled)

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 77 wherein the step of forming a plurality of orifices further comprises:

cutting a distal end of the distal section.

65. (previously presented) The method of Claim 77 further comprising:
cutting the tubing to size to form a shaft portion of the catheter.

66. (previously presented) The method of Claim 77 further comprising:
exposing a portion of said tubing to high energy radiation.

67. (previously presented) The method of Claim 77 in which said catheter is for use in the respiratory system.

68. (previously presented) The method of Claim 77 in which the step of heating further comprises:

heating the tubing to a temperature between a melt state and a glass state of said tubing.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 77 further comprising providing radiopaque markings along at least a portion of the catheter.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said radiopaque markings comprise graduated markings along the catheter.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of providing radiopaque markings comprises attaching at least one of radiopaque bands of metal and radiopaque heat shrunk bands of doped radiopaque plastic to the catheter.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 77 further comprising providing ultrasonically reflecting markings along the catheter.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 77 further comprising fabricating a stripe along a side of the catheter, wherein the stripe comprises one of a radiopaque material or an ultrasonically reflective material, whereby the stripe is useful for determining a rotational orientation of the catheter.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein fabricating a stripe comprises forming the stripe with a coextrusion process.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein fabricating a stripe comprises embedding a wire in a wall of the nebulization catheter.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein at least a portion of the catheter is constructed of a compliant material.

77. (currently amended) A method of forming a catheter for nebulizing a liquid with a gas, the catheter having closely spaced distal orifices comprising:

providing a multilumen extruded polymer tubing;

heating a portion of the tubing to a transition temperature of said tubing;

forming a j-shaped distal section in the multilumen extruded polymer tubing at a distal end of the catheter, wherein the multilumen extruded polymer tubing in the j-shaped distal section maintains a shape at rest that curves away from a longitudinal axis of the catheter; and

forming a plurality of orifices at the j-shaped distal section, said plurality of orifices being sized to nebulize a liquid delivered through one of said lumens to form an aerosol with a gas delivered through another of said lumens, wherein the j-shaped distal section is maintained in an orientation having the plurality of orifices pointing substantially towards a proximal end of the catheter.

78. (canceled)

79. (currently amended) The method of claim 77[[78]] wherein the j-shaped distal section is maintained in the orientation by attaching a first end of a tether to an end of the j-shaped distal section and a second end of a tether to a portion of a shaft of the catheter.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein the tether comprises a wire fixedly attached to the distal end of the catheter and to a point along the catheter shaft.

81. (canceled)